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To the Right Honourable, the *Lord Mayor*, *Aldermen*, and *Commons* of the City of LONDON in Common-Council Assembled;

The Humble Petition *and* Addreſs *of the* Sea-men, *and* Watermen, *in and about the ſaid City of* LONDON.

[By William Prynne 1655, 1659]

SHEWETH,

That they cannot without much griefe of heart, and conſternation of ſpirit, conſider and bewaile the Extraordinary decay of Merchandize, Trade, Religion, Juſtice, Piety, and Inundation of all ſorts of Oppreſſions Diſtreſſes, Rapines, Wars, Tumults, Sects, Hereſies, Blaſphemies, Alterations of Government and deſtructive Confuſions, which have overwhelm'd our formerly flouriſhing and renowned Nations, and this famous City ever ſince the notorious violations, and ſubverſions of our Fundamental Laws, Liberties, Properties, Governments and Parliaments, by the treachery, and armed violence of ambitious, treacherous Mercenaries of inconſiderable Fortunes and corrupt Principles uſurping a more arbitrary dominion over Our Lives, Perſons, Eſtates, and Priviledges, than the worſt of Our Kingly Governors whoſe deſperate Counſels, Practiſes and Innovations have made Us the ſcorn, deriſion of all the World and plunged Our Church, State, Nations, and this famous City, into the very Gulph of inevitable ruin; unleſs ſpeedily and timely prevented by your prudent, unanimous Counſels, now ſtanding up in the Gap in this day of Our publique Calamity, by improving your power and intereſt to accompliſh theſe juſt Deſires of Your Petitioners, and many Thouſands of theſe Nations, which we humbly conceive to be the onely viſible means (though Gods bleſſing on them) to obviate our Dangers, compoſe Our Diviſions and reſtore Our priſtine Peace, Unity, Trade, Proſperity, and make Us once more a praiſe amongſt the Kingdoms, Churches, and Nations, whom the Lord hath ſignally bleſſed with glorious Deliverances, and tranſcendent Mercies.

We ſhall therefore humbly importune this Honorable Aſſembly (to whom We can make Our Addreſſes) to endeavour,

I. That a Free and Legal Parliament, may with all convenient ſpeed be convened to ſit within the City of *London*, without any forcible Interruption or Moleſtation, to Settle the Government, Redreſſe the Grievances, Reſtore the Peace, Merchandize, Trade, and Navigation of this Nation.

II. That the Militia of the City may be preſently raiſed, and put into the hands of ſuch Perſons, whoſe Principles and Actions have evidenced them to be Well-affected to Government, Magiſtracy, Miniſtry, Laws, Liberties, the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, and Reformed Religion here Eſtabliſhed. That the Guards of the City may be put into their Hands, and all Obtruded Guards, diſturbing the Peace, obſtructing the Trade of, and Threatning Danger to the City, removed.

III. That all ſuch Officers and Souldiers of the Army in and about the City and elſewhere, who ſhall obey your Commands, and contribute their Aſſiſtance for the Calling, & Safe-Sitting of a FREE PARLIAMENT, may be aſſured and ſpeedily paid their Arrears; and thoſe, who ſhall oppoſe the ſame, and Settlement of the Nation, and City, left to publique Juſtice for the Murders lately Committed, and other Miſdemeanours.

IV. That the Nobility, and Gentry of Quality, in and about the City, may be Invited to contribute their Counſels and aſſiſtance for effecting the Premiſſes.

In the proſecution whereof and Our former Oaths, Proteſtation, Vow and Covenant We ſhall with Our Eſtates, Lives and laſt drop of Our Bloud, conſtantly and unanimouſly aſſiſt Your Honours, and all others adhering to You, to promote and accompliſh the Premiſes and what elſe Your Wiſdome ſhall think fit to conduce to the Reſtitution of the Publique Peace, Trade and Welfare of this City, and Our Three Diſtracted Nations.

In Witneſs whereof We hereunto ſubſcribe Our Hands and Hearts.

C/D